



Healthy hospitals, healthy planet, healthy people: Addressing climate change in health care settings

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Abstract:

Global climate change is no longer an ominous future threat but a dawning reality – one that is already creating disturbing shifts in the natural and human environment and eroding the delicate balance of our planet's ecosystem and the species that depend on it. This discussion draft is based on the World Health Organization's (WHO) mandate from member states to develop "programmes for health systems that will contribute to reducing their own greenhouse gas emissions". It also takes root in Health Care Without Harm's (HCWH) more than 12 years of experience of working globally to transform the health sector so that it is no longer a source of harm to human health and the environment. The paper begins to define a framework for analysing and addressing the health sector's climate footprint – including identifying seven aspects of a climate-friendly hospital. It also draws on a series of examples from around the world that demonstrate that the health sector is indeed already beginning to provide leadership in this most important area of concern to the global community. This paper is the first step in a WHO project in collaboration with Health Care Without Harm (HCWH) aimed at addressing the climate footprint of the health sector.

Source: http://www.who.int/globalchange/publications/healthcare_settings/en/

Resource Description

Exposure : ☒

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Security, Glacier/Snow Melt, Unspecified Exposure

Air Pollution: Other Air Pollution

Air Pollution (other): SO₂; NO_x

Extreme Weather Event: Drought

Geographic Feature: ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

General Geographical Feature

Geographic Location: ☒

resource focuses on specific location

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Global or Unspecified

Health Co-Benefit/Co-Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cardiovascular Effect, Injury, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect, Other Health Impact

Respiratory Effect: Asthma, Other Respiratory Effect

Respiratory Condition (other) : Chronic bronchitis

Other Health Impact: Emergency room visits

Medical Community Engagement:

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation:

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Mitigation

Resource Type:

format or standard characteristic of resource

Policy/Opinion

Timescale:

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified